Photo History

October 2008 to December 2008

(Volume 23)

October 2008 –December 2008 (Volume 23)

Still a general feeling around that it is going to get a lot worse before it gets better. I thought that we could now start to enjoy the fruits of years of hard work and that Lynny could retire and enjoy doing what she wanted instead of answering to others. It appears that this will not be the case. Luckily we are both fit and able and forward looking so we are optimistic that while Rome burns we will be making fire extinguishers…

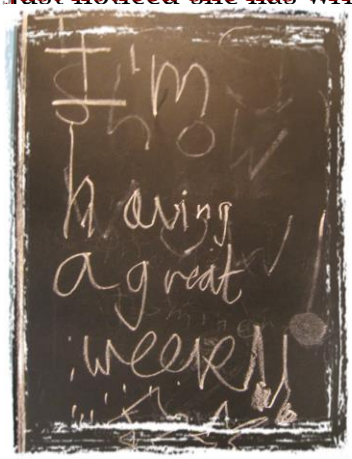
The kids are really great. Tammy and Ben are very happy with their kids and Lobbos the dog who is enormous and really a part of their family. Larnie is growing up well and is a delight, The boys are growing rapidly and John will start work soon.

DP and Angela are just on the way back from Spain where they harvested their almonds and apparently it did not stop raining. We are looking forward to seeing them again and we miss their kids and undoubtedly they will have changed since we last saw them.

Mum is still great. She is totally independent still and although she has lost a lot of weight recently she is great fun and only her poor hearing indicates her age.

Lynny is the best wife anyone could ask for. She is totally supportive and the best thing is that we have fun together. As I get older I find the thing that attracts me to people is their sense of humour and happy approach to life.
Even Julia, who has been told that she has a very limited life expectancy, is great fun and when I think of our friends (and family) I see a smile and a laugh on all their faces. That is a fact and is what keeps our relationships flourishing.

These books are now an integral part of my life and I am moving them to the lounge where we can enjoy them when we feel like 'dipping' into past times. It is a fact of getting older that one looks back all the time…still I guess one has a deeper pool of memories to dip into than when one is young. The phone calls out of the blue from my kids saying "I just phoned to say I love you" make life worth living. Nothing I say or do prompts that..it is spontaneous and wonderful. When Larnie stayed with us I just noticed she has written on the kitchen blackboard " I am having a lovely week".



….that says it all…Great family…great friends – that overshadows all the gloom around and gives a meaning to life…

RMK Oct'08

Photo History

A few images from September that seem to have been misplaced:

These are from a day Lynn and spent in Marlow. The lock and weir are a lovely area to walk along and the weather was glorious

The town is busy but as with most towns now you see all the same shop names. If a council had a policy of devoting one central street to non-multiples and encouraged free enterprise by sensible rents and rates I feel it would attract a discerning clientele and everyone would benefit. You might even find a good old-fashioned

greengrocer

and fishmonger (even the name sounds 'quaint')

Photo History

From the bridge (The Compleat Angler on the far bank)

The old church by the bridge over the Thames

The Chinese love to gamble and this pagoda street decoration is being used by the locals for their amusement. I notice it is always exclusively men…

Photo History

Just behind the Tate Britain an art installation is being erected and jokingly called 'Temporary Eyesore'

I don't think the pigeon who was intent on bathing in the puddle could have cared what it was called….

Photo History

London now has lots of zany art and I love this 'room setting' outside the National Theatre. It shows a great humour and people actually smile when they come round the corner and see it…

South Bank Three Piece Suite

Fun…..

Talking of fun here is Tammy and her 'fun' car. Apparently you 'wear it' rather than drive it. She will grow up when she reaches 16 I guess.

(Yes, I'm jealous…does it really show??)

(these are the driving gloves….)

This is our own Freddie Frog. He guards our water feature and has been known to attack without provocation. You may notice that he has the family nose .

Photo History

It has been with us for ever and yet we go up to Ally Pally so rarely. We discovered a deer sanctuary hidden away at the top and we had coffee and focacia sitting in the sun by the boating lake. Walking round the palace the views towards the city and docklands made distances seem foreshortened and one wonders why it takes so long to get around London.

Photo History

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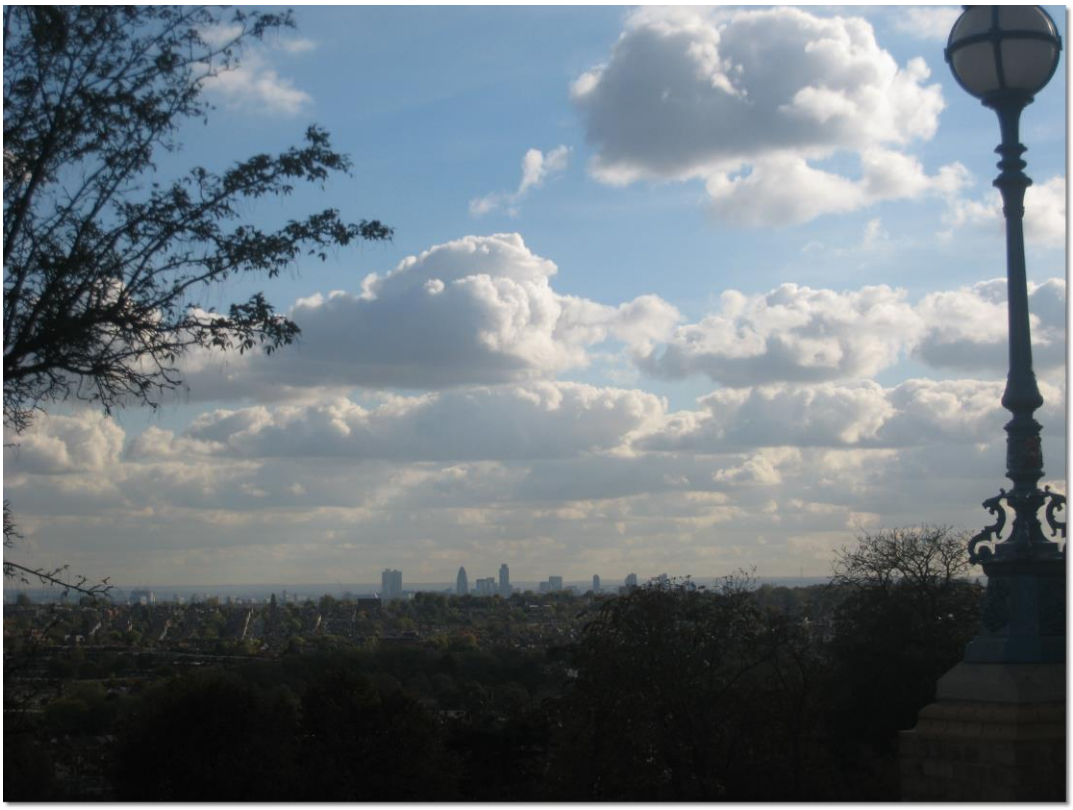
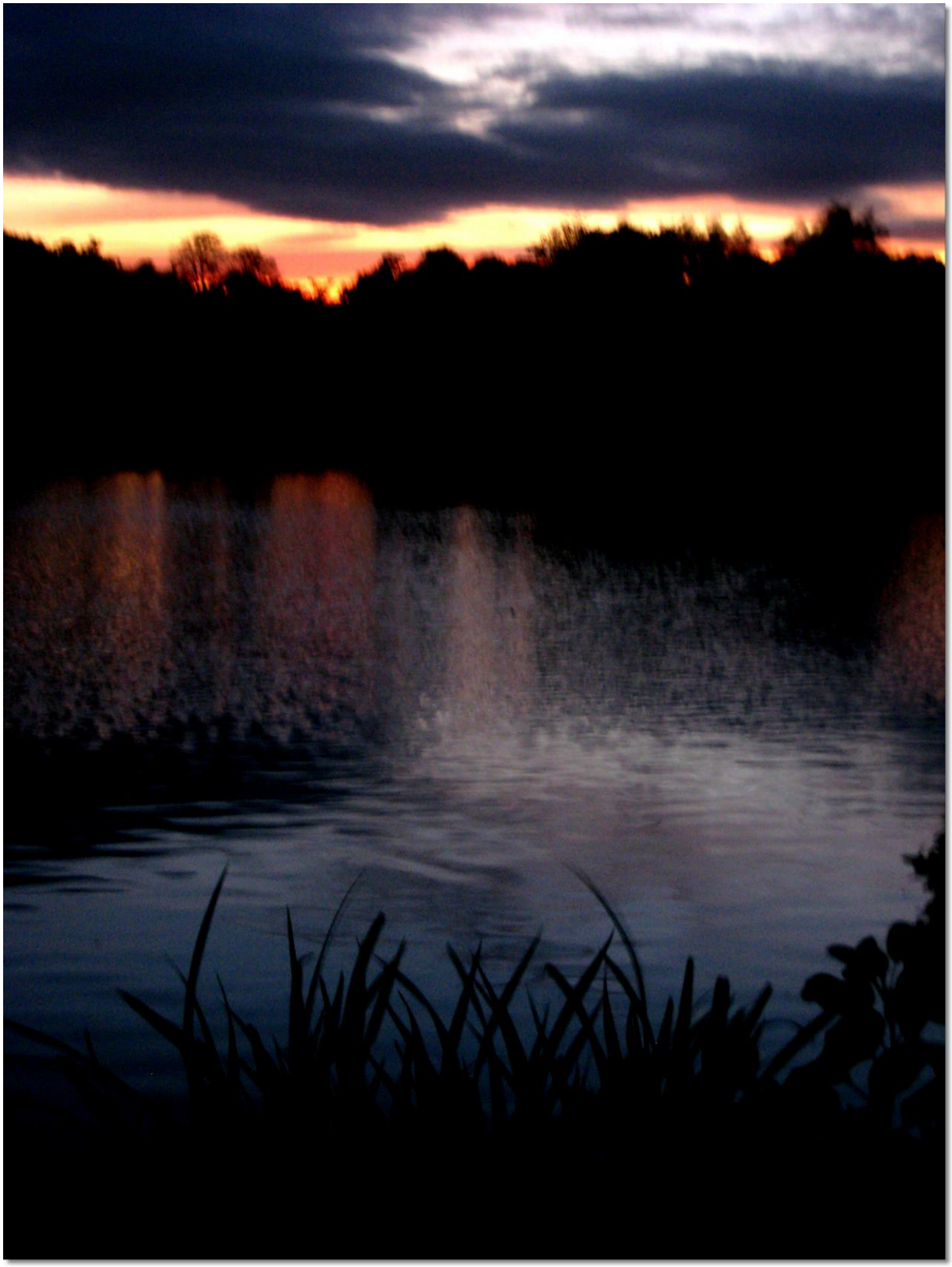


Photo History

This time of year the sunsets in the park are quite fascinating...just a week or so and the clocks go back and effectively puts an end to our evening walks in the park until spring next year.



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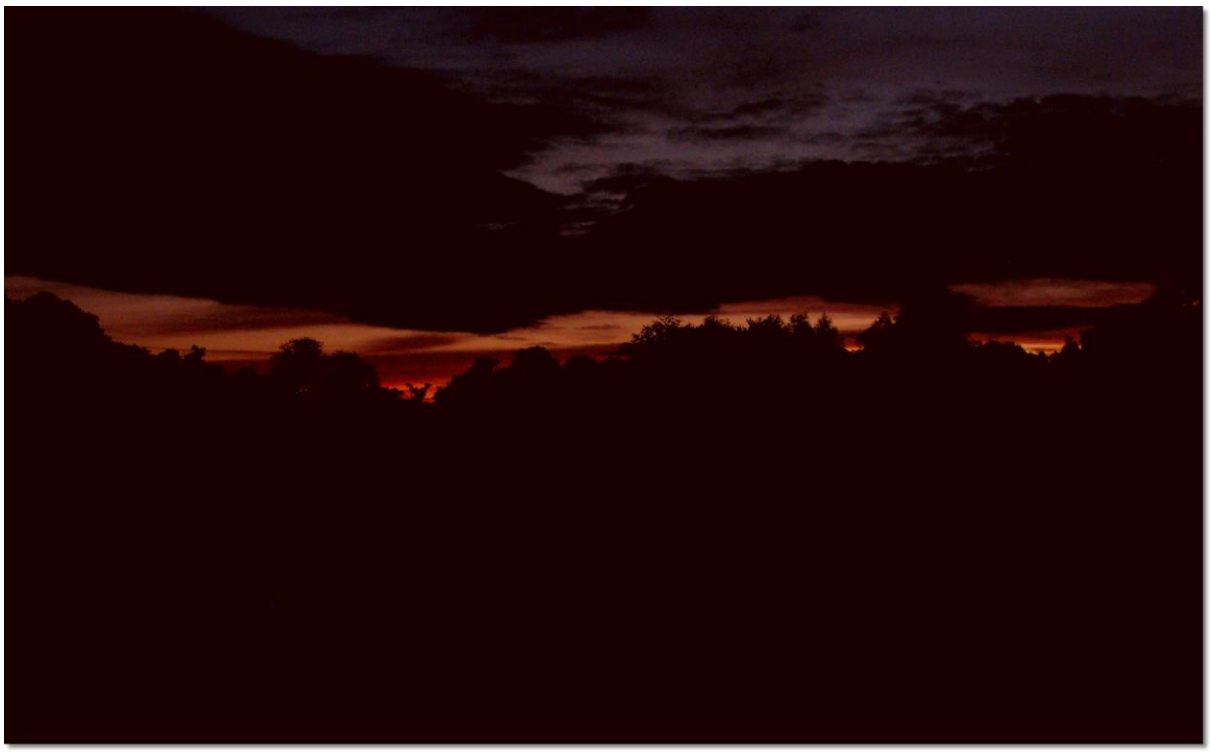

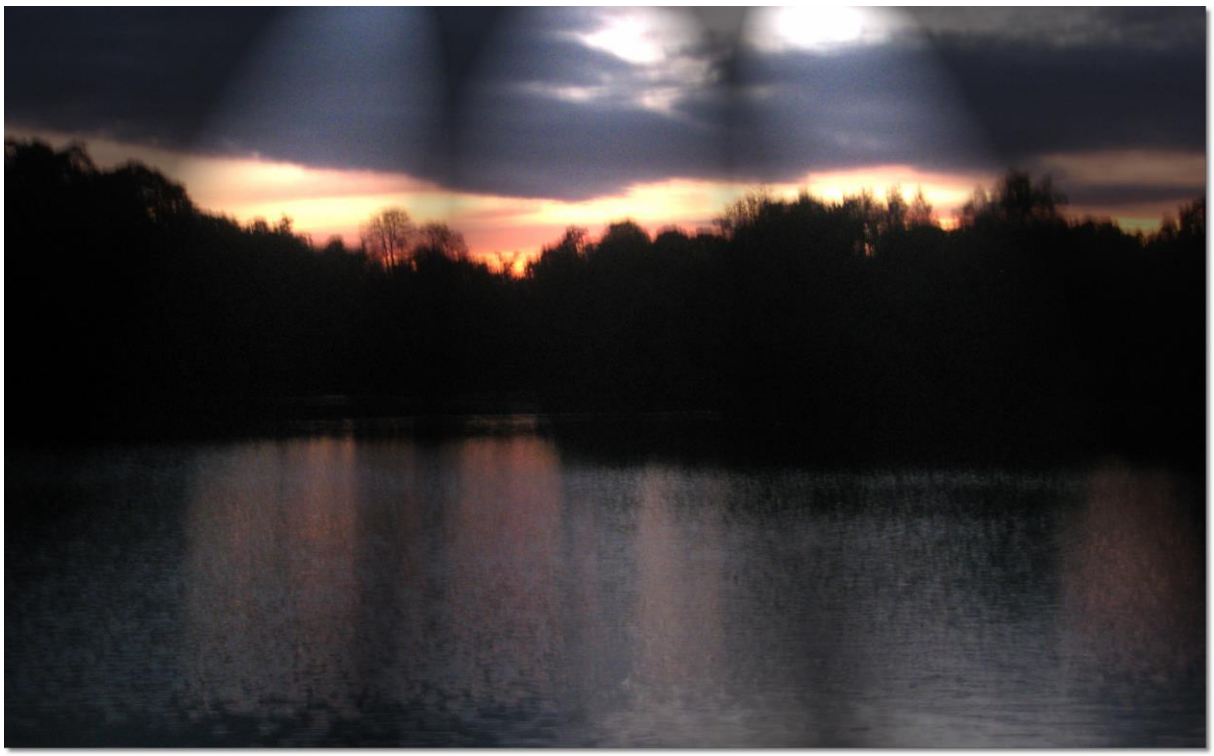

Photo History

Quite often Ivor and I (and a few others) went to Gigi's - a coffee bar in a non-salubrious part of Willesden (is there a salubrious part you may ask??) The audience was always outnumbered by the band and we were treated to a fantastic 'Big Band' evening. It was free and unfortunately like all good things came to an abrupt end…still it was great while it lasted

Regent Street closed for a one day festival and it was strange to see stalls, carousels and music in the normally frantic London street. Unfortunately the weather was terrible

Photo History

I had to see a client in Stoke Newington and took the opportunity to take a walk in Abney Park Cemetery and the weather was great and the tombs were so overgrown and neglected and totally fascinating . I took hundreds of shots and was aware of Lynn dragging along despondently behind me mumbling …" many more??" I really am a photographic bore but I have enough to see if I can do a small hard-back book of them with some interesting research about the place. I am sure not much reference will be made about the fact that down and outs seem to find it a great place to relax and have a beer and also it is known locally as the 'Gay-yard' rather than the graveyard for obvious reasons that we became aware of as we witnessed many men sitting alone on benches whilst other 'cruised' around

Hopefully the book will be done soon and you can see if my time was wasted…

We met Vivian and Walter and Julia on a sunny Sunday and went on an RLT ('Ralph London Tour'). Starting from Tower Gateway/Bank, we went on the DLR via canary Wharf to Greenwich. Walter was in his element 'driving' the train and raced little boys for the front seat… I think Vivian had to restrain him from knocking them out of the way….

Photo History

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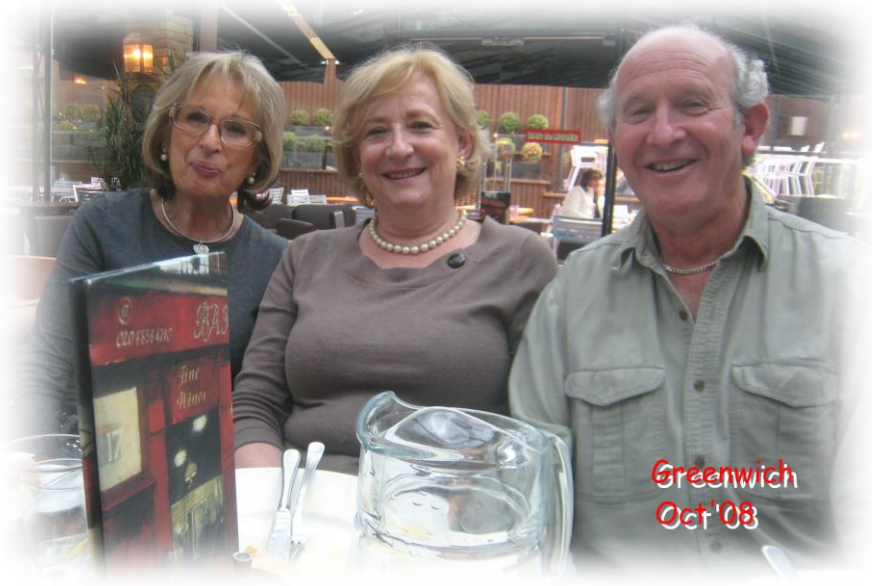


so much to see and eat….

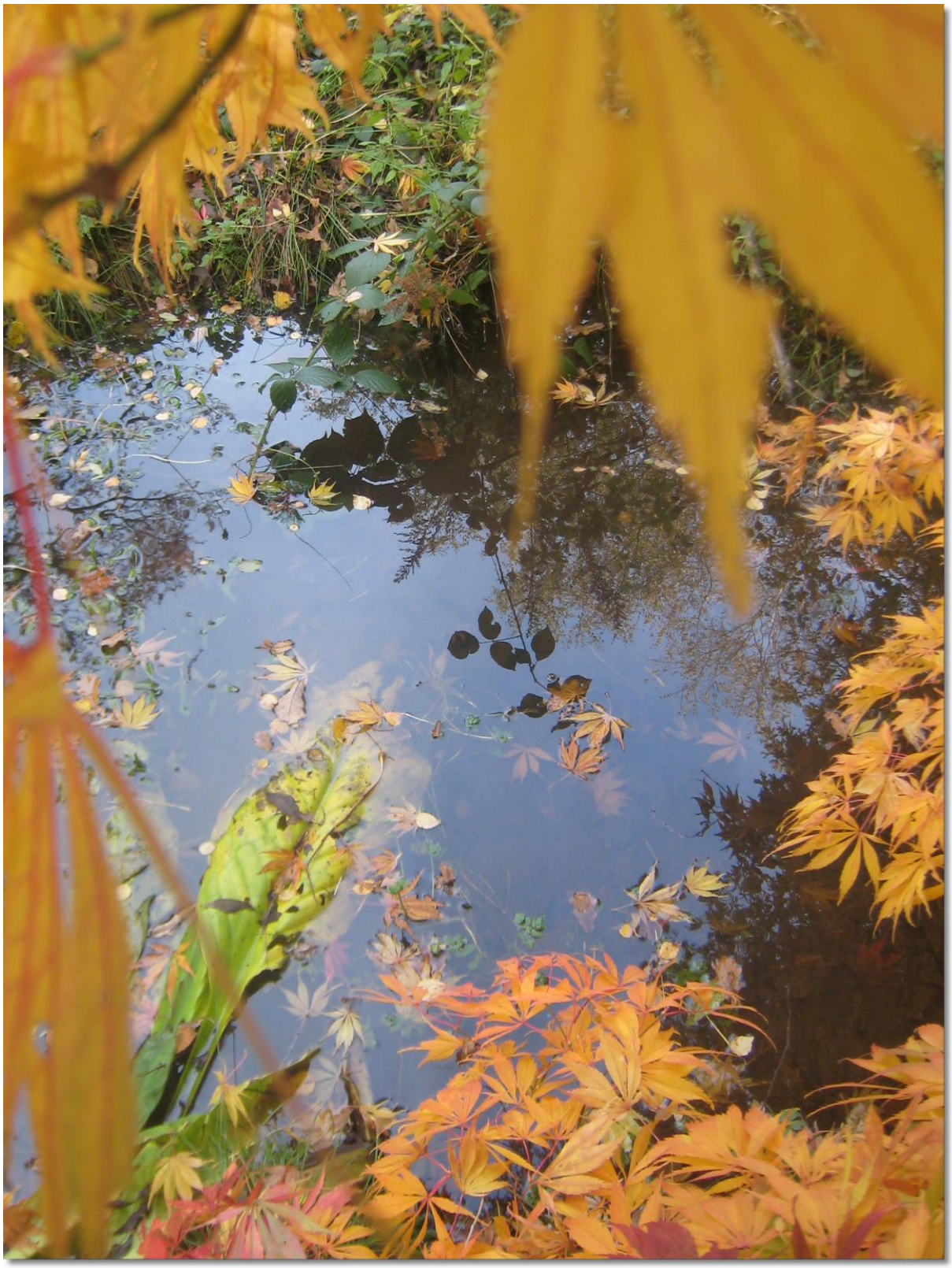
It is so good to see Julia looking so well and enjoying herself. She is a special brave person

November '08 and still it is quite mild. This has left lots of leaves on the trees and the resultant autumn colours rival New England

The leaf litter add a soft carpet to Grovelands Wood

The view from Trent Park to Enfield. We never seem to tire of this view and always sit and enjoy the peace here

Photo History



The 'secret garden' in Trent Park has spectacular colours this time of year..

Photo History

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Colourful hoarding graffiti in Brick Lane

If you look carefully you can see the urban fox watching people in Brick Lane from the safety of the garage roof. He was totally at ease in his chosen environment

Jo swore blind that the dog "must go" …She reckoned without the loving ways of the Labrador and soon came to love it just as we knew she would….

"We will never go to Ikea…it's really naff" This is a picture of Lynn eating her words….(hence the Ikea bib) …We have become total converts

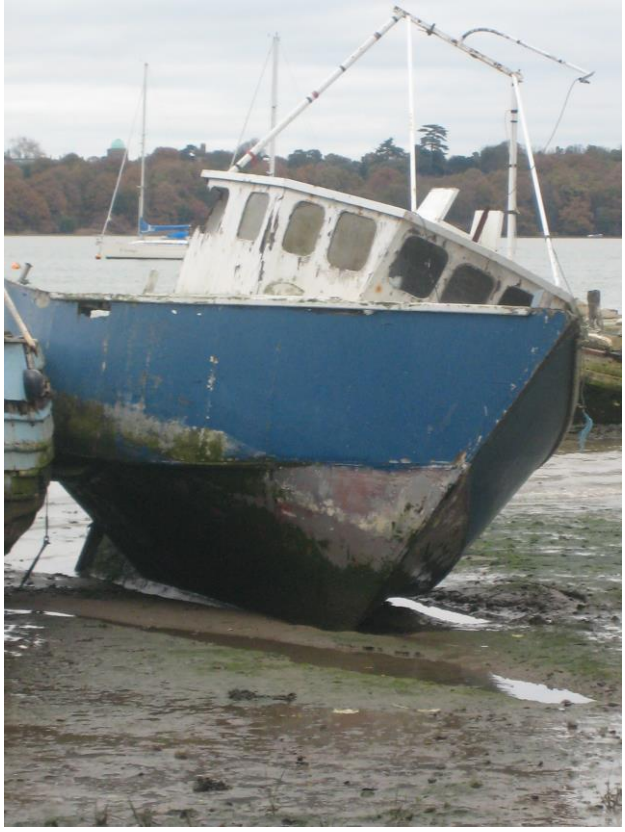
Quick...while nobody's around

We met DP and the kids at Pin Mill in November (Angela had gone away to Whitby for the weekend with Mum and sister). We had a meal on the estuary opposite the house

Photo History

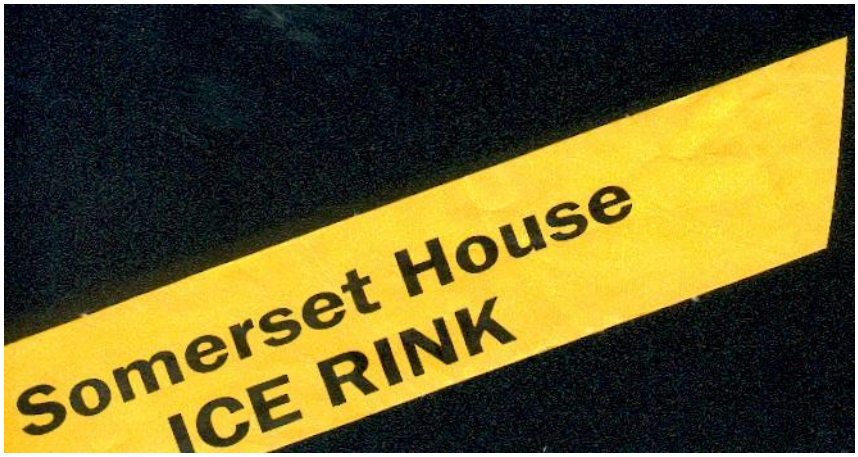
BETULA
MANON
FOR SALE

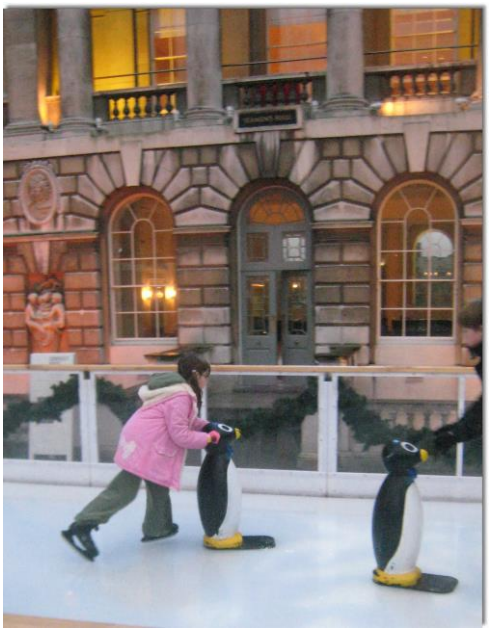
Photo History



The assorted vessels make great studies

Somerset House Ice skating has become a ritual now and it was better than ever and Larnie enjoyed it as much as we did.
The setting, the blue lights and music make it the best ice rink anywhere…





Come on grandad it's easy….

Exit

Involve the kids in whatever we are doing and they love it…When they came to us in December pizza-making was the order of the day. They took to it like ducks to water….

The
result

The
result

December '08

It is a special time when we are all together and Tammy, Ben and Larnie came with John (Jack was at a friends). Mum was here and DP and Angela bought the kids so Larnie took over looking after them. It was a really great time together…

Coming towards Christmas and a few reflections on the recent events in the UK.

World economic events have really hit hard and I think that we are only slowly becoming aware of what is ahead. Yes, I am a pessimist, but maybe that is an alternative word for a 'realist'. We, as a country, have been living well beyond our means for a long time and easy credit has fuelled house prices and this has lasted so long that we all thought it would go on for ever. Whole generations have grown up never saving and always spending all they have and in many cases 'more' than they have. With a resounding crash things have changed and we now seem to be the poor man of Europe.

Brazil, USSR, India and China will emerge as the new wealthy economies and we will see many changes. I fear 2009 will bring much unemployment and many previously comfortable people will suddenly see their pensions dwindle and everything they have worked for come to nothing.

Blame will be laid in various quarters because we are a 'blame-led' society. We never look to the past and learn from our mistakes. We have to make them again and instead of listening to our elders who saved and did not live beyond their means we spent, spent, spent. Now the banks are blamed for lending money without enough security but it is us who borrowed it. Even people on low incomes have their cars tv's, holidays, and all the trappings of the affluent society. Any sensible person could look around the UK and see no manufacturing base, no fishing industry, no farming to speak of and realise that while things were good…no problem but when things turn sour we, as a country and individually, are in no position to weather the storm.

This goes through every level of society and no one can say "I told you so". I am guilty of it so are we all. I am 65 in less than one month and enjoy working but wouldn't it be great if I could now enjoy life, taking things a bit easier. My main concern is that I would love Lynn to stop working…she has worked hard all her life. She deserves to relax and enjoy doing what she likes now, perhaps taking up a creative hobby or similar.

Anyway we are happy with a great family and I refuse to allow the doom and gloom that comes from every form of media to get me down.

2009 will be a great year…watch this space….